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CONTENTS

Effects of Atomic Radiation	1
Export Promotion Conference	2
Quebec Accepts Medical Plan	3
Christmas for Canada's Airmen	4

Engineers and Scientists	4
OECD Established	5
A-Research on Remote Isle	5
Technical Education	6

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

The following is the text of a statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Vice Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations, to the Special Political Committee on December 15:

"The Government and people of Canada have long been concerned about the hazards of radiation. This concern has found expression in the development within Canada of an extensive system of radioactive sample analysis. It has also found expression in active Canadian support for international efforts to increase man's knowledge of radiation. During the past five years the focal point for international consideration of this complex question has been the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, on which Canada has had the privilege and responsibility of serving since its establishment.

FRUITFUL COLLABORATION

"The annual progress report of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, which has been circulated in Document A/4528 and which is the subject of our present debate, gives even the layman an insight into the complexities of the problems to which the scientists on the Committee and their collaborators have had to address themselves. It is clear that co-operation among scientists, both national and international, with the encouragement and assistance of governments and of inter-governmental organizations, is essential to achieve the desired results. It is therefore gratifying to

note from the lucid report before us that, in pursuit of the Scientific Committee's work, increasingly fruitful collaboration is taking place among the Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, international non-governmental and national scientific organizations and individual scientists, and that active co-operation has been increasingly forthcoming from governments of member states, whether represented on the Scientific Committee or not.

"New lines of enquiry and avenues for sharing knowledge and stimulating the exchange and flow of relevant information are indicated in the current progress report. I sense that the general feeling in this Committee is that a wide-ranging debate on this item is neither necessary nor desirable at this time, particularly in the light of the limited time available to us before the Assembly goes into recess. I may, however, be forgiven for taking the Committee's time to make a few remarks on that part of the Scientific Committee's report which results from an initiative taken by my Delegation in co-operation with certain other delegations at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. I refer to Annex I of Document A/4528, which contains a report prepared in response to Resolution 1376 (XIV), by which the Scientific Committee was requested to consider and study appropriate arrangements for stimulating the flow of information and data relevant to the effects of radiation on man and his environment and to consider more effective arrangements for encouraging genetic,

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